

Outdoor News

Journal of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia
Volume 27 No 5, February 2010

Mike Meredith

Welcome to the first edition of Outdoor News for 2010. I trust you had an enjoyable festive season and have returned ready for another busy and fulfilling year working to educate people in the great outdoors. This year promises to be a good one for OEASA with a number of interesting activities planned to meet your professional needs as educators in the outdoors.

It was great to attend the national Outdoor Education Conference in Fremantle in mid January and get together with like minded people from Australia and a few Kiwis. There are certainly some national issues on the move at present and the presence of Outdoor Education within the National Curriculum is one of interest to all of us. This topic was discussed at length in Fremantle and future actions to assist in getting OED included were looked at. The role of the national network of OED associations was also reviewed and some strategies to improve its effectiveness were looked at. One was a financial contribution from each state to provide funding for ongoing national representation. This will be tabled for discussion at the AGM.

After the terrible fires that Victoria witnessed last year there was considerable impact on Outdoor Education Programs. One result of the catastrophic outcomes of these fires is a document put together by the Outdoor Recreation Centre Victoria, *Guidance note – management of Outdoor activities for Severe weather Conditions*. I would recommend you all have read as the document contains some very pertinent information and weather extremes are not that unusual here in SA. You can download a copy from the ORC-Victoria web site: www.orc.org.au/activity_standards_resources.php.

The details for this year's major calendar activities are listed throughout this edition and I urge you to mark

them in on your calendar now so you can ensure you are able to attend and help make them successful events.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to the following events:

The 2010 AGM and guest presentation will be held on Friday 19 March, 6:30 pm at the Education Development Centre Hindmarsh



Agenda

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Previous minutes
- Chairperson's report
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's report
- Election of office bearers 2010
- Fees for 2011
- AOB

Followed by drinks, nibbles and guest presenter, Joc Schmiechen

A Wilderness First Aid Course is being run at Scott's Creek, Monday 29–Thursday 1 April. This is a great opportunity to develop advanced outdoor first aid skills for more remote locations. Places will be limited so don't hesitate and get on to Phil Noble to book a place.

A Risk Management Seminar is being run at Uni SA on Saturday 10 April and is being heavily subsidised for OEASA members. The seminar is part of an Australian circuit to conduct theory and practical sessions. This

Continued on page 3...

Contents

News and notes	3	Risk management in the outdoors: a workshop...	12
OEASA Annual General Meeting, 20 March 2009	4	BLSA News	13
2010 National Outdoor Conference	6	World Challenge Adventure	13
Water for the future	9	The paddling page	14
On risk	10	SAREA News	15
Managing the Risks associated with Severe Weather...	10	Operation Flinders Foundation Seminar 2010	16
VOEA News	11	OEASA members	18

Outdoor News is supported by



And: Paddy Pallin, Mountain Designs, Outdoor Adventure Skills and Scout Outdoor Centre

From the Editor

Peter Carter

In the normal course of events, this edition would have been published late last year. However, for a variety of reasons, that didn't happen, so we begin the year with a full issue.

The next main event is OEASA's AGM, with details given opposite. The guest speaker, Joc Schmiechen, is one of those people you simply must meet and talk to. It will be a good meeting. In these pages you'll find minutes and reports from last year's AGM, and Mike has listed the agenda on his page.

The immediate past main event was the National Outdoor Conference in Perth, and Mike Meredith and Scott Polley share their thoughts on speakers, the Freemantle declaration, and a proposal for a national outdoor education week.

In recent years, we've all become much more conscious of water and our need to conserve it. (My garden runs on grey water.) Last year Arbury Park installed new tanks as part of a project to improve the school's water conservation and act as an example to the students who visit it. David Doherty, Arbury Park's Curriculum Coordinator, describes the project, and its official 'unveiling'.

Tony Carden, Executive Officer of VOA, seems to be a busy man. He will be touring the country running risk management workshops in the near future (Adelaide's is on 10 April, as detailed on page 12), and last year he attended the Linking Landscapes Summit in NSW, as he reports on page 11. On the previous page, he has some interesting thoughts on risk management in the outdoors. (Tony is also a member of Aus Canoeing's Education and Safety Technical committee.)



Two other events you can read about here are the Operation Flinders Foundation Seminar 2010 on 19 March, and the 2010 forum of Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy Inc in Tasmania in late March.

Bushwalking Leadership and SA Rockclimbing Education Association have both provided some notes on their forthcoming activities, and I have some words on the Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2009, some rules that were put together by someone with no understanding of the history and practice of sea kayaking. Fortunately, reason is prevailing.

A reminder. If you want to submit photographs for Outdoor News they must come with captions: who, which, what, when where, etc. Those images must also be as image files, TIFF or JPEG, and not embedded in Word documents. (I ignored images sent for this issue because they were in a Word file.)

Anyway, lots to read in this issue, and some interesting events coming up, as well as lots of time in the outdoors in the late summer – autumn weather. 

The Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia

Aims

- 1 To promote the development of Outdoor Education in South Australia
- 2 To represent Outdoor Educators on issues and matters concerning the use of the outdoors
- 3 To maintain the professional development of personnel working in the area of Outdoor Education
- 4 To maintain, support and develop the role of Outdoor Educators in South Australia
- 5 To promote the professional interchange of information between members and other related organisations through conferences, meetings, seminars and publications
- 6 To promote a philosophy of environmental awareness, preservation, conservation and positive attitudes towards the use of the outdoor environment
- 7 To act in an advisory capacity to community, government and non-government agencies

The Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia

supports these national ethical guidelines for outdoor educators:

- The Outdoor Educator will fulfil his or her duty of care
- The Outdoor Educator will provide a supportive and appropriate learning environment
- The Outdoor Educator will develop his or her professionalism
- The Outdoor Educator will ensure his or her practice is culturally and environmentally sensitive

OEASA Committee 2009–2010

Chair: Mike Meredith

Treasurer: Phil Noble

Secretary: Nick Glover

Assistant Secretary:

Editor and webmaster: Peter Carter

Sub-Editors: Clay Hunter

Committee: Scott Polley, Peter Kellett, Cath Jenner, Dale Hobbs, Andrew Govan, Mick Dennis, Julie Engelhardt, Kim Wood, Darryl Spencer, Meridee Shearing, Danielle Meuring

Chairman's report

...continued

should be a great opportunity and I would encourage as many people as possible to come along and make use of the great OEASA price. Places are limited so get in early and don't be disappointed.

The GACO (Great Aussie camp Out) is planned for Saturday 17 April and is intended to get people outside and involved in camping. The idea is to log on to the web site indicating you are involved and camp out that night in the back yard, caravan park, national park, etc. There is no cost involved and should help promote healthy and respectful use of outdoor places. Go on get involved and let your students and parents know about it as well: www.greataussiecampout.org.au.

The Presentation Dinner will be held on Friday 18 June once again at the Unley City Council Chambers, which was a great venue last year. This event recognising achievements of those involved in the outdoor community and is one not to be missed.

The State Outdoor Conference is going to be a one-day event on Monday 1 November at the Education Development Centre Hindmarsh. Once again we hope to work with Rec SA to present a wide range of interesting presentations putting on show people leading the way in the outdoors.



The Great Aussie Camp Out

(The Great Aussie Camp Out GACO) will bring together thousands of Australians for one big night where they will share the experience of camping out under the stars... in their back yards, on a river bank, in a camp, a National park, a caravan park: in fact, anywhere they might feel like!



With the long term goal of promoting healthy active lifestyles by encouraging individuals, families, friends and clubs to enjoy the great outdoors, GACO will coordinate a one night 'camp-out' across the country with the aim of introducing people to the fun and adventure of camping out. People will be encouraged to stay at a residential camp or caravan park, pitch a tent, sleep under the stars, grab a barbie, organise some games and get away from their normal weekend routine. It is anticipated that a range of come 'n' try activities will also be offered on the day of the GACO by community groups such as Scouts and Guides, bushwalking clubs, canoeing clubs. Residential camps will also be able to offer activities such as high ropes, etc. National Parks could arrange to have Park Rangers on duty to conduct interpretation activities for the night. In this way participants will be able to sample adventure activities and experiences in the outdoors in a controlled and supported environment.

There will be plenty more information coming soon about the Great Aussie Camp Out so stay tuned.

Log on and register at www.greataussiecampout.org.au.

News and notes

OEASA AGM and Speaker

Friday 19 March 6:30 pm, Education development Centre, Milner Street, Hindmarsh

Programme

6:30–7:00 pm: Drinks and nibbles

7:00–7:30 pm: AGM

7:30–8:00 pm: Finger food and drinks free for members

8:00–9:00 pm: Speaker: Joc Schmiechen: 'Kimberley Capers: 24 years adventuring in the wilds of the Kimberley'

Joc Schmiechen has had a long career leading expeditions in Tasmania, the Northern Territory, the Antarctic, and especially in The Kimberley. A specialist in Aboriginal art and culture, Joc is also an outstanding outdoor photographer, who will present an inspiring view of the less visited parts of the Kimberley. One of South Australia's earliest outdoor educators, Joc is always certain to entertain.

All members are encouraged to attend and support your association.

Calls are made for nominations for members to serve as office bearers of the association. Nominations with a second order for the following positions may be made prior to or at the AGM: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Sub-editor (and assistants) and committee members.

Please RSVP and send nominations to Nick Glover 0421 612 340, <nicks_mailbox@yahoo.com>, by 17 March.

Advanced Wilderness First Aid Course

When: Monday 29 March to Thursday 1 April 2010
(4 days, 32 hours)

Where: Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre, Morgan, South Australia

Cost: Course \$560, meals and accommodation \$120

OEASA Members will get the cost of Meals and accommodation (\$120) reimbursed upon completion of the course.

For more information contact Equip Health Systems:
18 King Edward Street Ulverstone Tas 7315
1800 137 847, Fax: 61 3 6301 9600
info@equip.com.au
www.equip.com.au

Outdoor News deadlines for 2010

It is planned to produce four newsletters each year. The deadline for submitting items is the end of term, aiming to get the newsletters out early in the term.

To this end dates for submission of articles are:

End Term 1, Thursday 1 April for the April edition

End term 2, Friday 2 July for the July edition

End Term 3, Friday 24 September for October edition

End term 4, Friday 10 December for February 2011 edition.

Your assistance in getting interesting articles, etc. in to the editor Peter Carter would be greatly appreciated.



OEASA Annual General Meeting, 20 March 2009

Apologies: Eve Craker, Anthea Shem, Kylie Agnew, Andrew Govan, Grant Henwood, Liz Liebing, Rob Hogan, Belinda Beisiegel, Mike Meredith, Phil Bourke, Scott Polley

Present: Phil Noble, Libby Robertson, Peter Carter, Bel Emanuele, Danny Meuring, Mick Dennis, Brad Newton, Kim Wood, Bianca Barbon, Nick Glover, Iain Simes, Peter Kellett, Wayne Hooper, Dave Williamson

- 1. Minutes** of the last AGM held on 14 March 2008 were read and confirmed
(Moved Wayne Hooper, seconded Clay Hunter)
- 2. Chairman's Report:** From Mike Meredith, delivered by Peter Kellett (see below)
(Acceptance moved Phil Noble, seconded Kim Wood)
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** read and accepted
(Moved Clay Hunter, seconded Wayne Hooper)
- 4. Special Thanks:** A vote of thanks was proposed by Wayne Hooper acknowledging the great work that Phil Noble had done as Treasurer, Membership Officer and Newsletter distributor. OEASA also notes the support of his school, Prince Alfred College.
Peter Kellett thanked the retiring committee members Wayne Hooper (Newsletter sub-editor) and Libby Robertson (Secretary)

5. Election of Officers

Chairperson: Mike Meredith—proposed Peter Kellett, seconded Wayne Hooper
Secretary: Nick Glover—proposed Peter Kellett, seconded Libby Robertson
Treasurer: Phil Noble—proposed Clay Hunter, seconded Danielle Meuring
Newsletter Editor: Peter Carter—proposed Peter Kellett, seconded Wayne Hooper
Sub-editor: Clay Hunter—proposed Wayne Hooper, seconded Kim Wood
Committee members: Kim Wood, Scott Polley, Beth Walker, Nathan Doble, Bel Emanuele, Mick Dennis

6. Coming Events

Friday 19 June —Presentation Dinner probably at Sturt Football Club again but booking still up in the air. Peter Kellett recommended that this was checked to see if other location was required
Seminar is to be held Friday 28 August
10–13 January OE National Conference 2010 to be held in Perth under the OEA. OEASA will pay something towards attendance in return for reports to OEASA.

7. AOB

Letter from Uni SA was received notifying of recipient of tertiary award for 2008
Meeting closed at 7:05 pm

We then had finger food before a fascinating and inspiring presentation by Dave Williamson about his kayak paddle from New Caledonia to Australia.

Chairperson's Report 2009

Mike Meredith

Once again OEASA has had a very busy year with a state conference and continued national discussions. The association has continued to represent its members and provide a service to outdoor professionals in SA. The national outdoor arena has moved forward and the development of an incorporated national Outdoor Education is in its concluding stages.

I would like to thank the committee members for their significant service and help throughout the year. Without their help little would get done and we as an organisation would provide limited service to our members. Everyone has supported the organisation to the best of their time and available effort but I would like to particularly thank Wayne Hooper as past sub-editor and Libby Robertson as secretary for their efforts this year. During the year they have helped organise our many events and newsletters. Phil Noble continues his great work with membership and finances. Andrew Govan and Daniel Polkinghorne for their efforts for the presentation dinner, Peter Carter for his efforts as editor and looking after the Web site and Peter Kellett for stepping in as chairperson in my absence. Without the help of such a wonderful committee we would have achieved very little. Thanks and well done.

What has the OEASA committee been up to since the last AGM?

- Attendance at the AGM was a little low but picked up for the very interesting talk from Phil Noble on his Kokoda exploits. We will be incorporating another guest speaker for future AGMs
- Continued discussions regarding BLSA funding
- Organised another very successful presentation dinner attended by 90 people with the presentation by numerous bodies of their leadership and achievement certificates
- Four newsletters distributed
- Two editions of National Journal of OED distributed
- Web site development has continued under Peter Carter's patient eye
- The committee has held continued discussions with the other state Outdoor Education Associations to pave the way for the incorporation of Outdoor Education Australia—a Network of OED associations. Discussions were also held regarding the running of future national conferences, with the next conference in WA January 2010
- Input into OCA regarding the NOLRS and National Outdoor Summit
- We have met regularly with Rec SA and they have continued to sponsor two awards for the presentation dinner namely for an outstanding Outdoor Organisation and for Individual or group promoting participation in OED

- We have run the 2009 state Outdoor Conference as a joint venture with Rec SA with approximately 120 people attending over the two days. Many of our members presented at the conference helping pass on their knowledge and expertise to outdoor participants
- We have maintained membership of CEASA and participated in meetings on teacher professional standards which are now being pursued at a national level
- Liaised with Barry Hayden from DEH/NP&W regards issues in park management. Agreement to continue this association discussing aspects of mutual interest. He presented at the state conference
- OEASA representative invited to participate in the Service Skills Australia forums on Sport Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Industry Awards
- OEASA has maintained a healthy financial state and is in a position to maintain if not improve services.

I would like to thank our many sponsors for the valuable support they have given us: including Paddy Pallins for their considerable help taking bookings for the presentation dinner, which is a much-appreciated job, and also for their donation of items for the Raffle. Wilderness Escape, Corporate Venture Recharge and Adventure Outdoors for their very generous donations and support of the conference, as well as Snowy's Outdoors, Columbia, Scout Outdoor Centre, Vertical Reality, Boots Camping for support to the presentation dinner. Anaconda and Griffin Wines deserve special praise for their donations for the presentation dinner and very generous support of the conference. Please show your support to these organisations with your patronage and help repay some of their great support. I would also like to thank the support given by Prince Alfred College and Uni SA.

In summary I would like to once again thank the committee on behalf of the members for its efforts throughout the year and our many sponsors and people who have helped out. Similarly I would like to acknowledge the work of Rec SA for their efforts in joint hosting of the 2008 State Outdoor Conference.

I look forward to another exciting year with another presentation dinner on the way, a National Conference in WA in January 2010 and the OEA—Network of OED associations moving toward an incorporated body. I also hope 2009 is a good year for professional development opportunities for OEASA members.

It is as always a pleasure to be of service.

Treasurer's Report 2009

Phil Noble

The 2009 year was once again a successful one for the Outdoor Education Association of South Australia (OEASA). Our membership database has 133 members with 94 being paid financial members. The breakdown is:

- Life Members: 6
- Individual Members: 20
- Student Members: 2

- Family Members: 2
- School Members: 33
- Corporate Members: 2
- Organisation Members: 7
- Award Winners: 7
- Complimentary Members: 15
- Unpaid Members: 39

The major event for OEASA for the year was the Award Dinner held at the Unley Council with 82 people attending this fantastic night. Throughout the night, raffles and the auction, with prizes kindly donated by several of our members, raised \$1580.00.

OEASA started the year with \$27,815.32 in the bank. Throughout the year we had an Income of \$8,470.89 and Expenses of \$7,359.80. This saw us with a profit of \$1,111.09 and a closing bank balance of \$28,951.41.

Financial Report

01-01-2009-31-12-2009

Balance brought forward from 31-12-2008	\$27,815.32
Income	Total
Bank Interest	\$580.89
Award Dinner	\$1,810.00
Auction	\$1,580.00
Membership Individual(20)	\$1,200.00
Membership Student (2)	\$90.00
Membership Family (2)	\$140.00
Membership School (33)	\$2,310.00
Membership Corporate (2)	\$140.00
Membership Organisation (7)	\$490.00
Membership Award Winners(7)	\$-
Membership Complementary (12)	\$-
Membership Life Members (6)*2 paid	\$130.00
Meetings	\$-
Donations	\$25.00
Total	\$8,470.89
Expenditure	Total
Government Bank Charges	\$-
Newsletter - Editing	\$204.00
Newsletter - Printing	\$320.56
Postage & Stationery	\$548.90
Membership (CEASA, OEA)	\$300.30
Public Liability Insurance	\$176.10
Award Dinner	\$2,839.00
Conference	\$357.50
Journals	\$1,062.50
Meetings	\$664.54
Donations	\$550.00
Internet	\$336.40
Total	\$7,359.80
Summary	
Total Income	\$8,470.89
Less Total Expenditure	\$7,359.80
Profit/Loss	\$1,111.09
Balance at 31 December 2009	\$28,951.41



2010 National Outdoor Conference

Mike Meredith

The 16th National Outdoor Education Conference was held at Notre Dame University Fremantle Western Australia, 10–13 January 2010. Outdoors WA on behalf of Outdoors Education Australia (OEA) convened the conference. Held in the historic port area of Fremantle, it heralded well for some great scenery and spirited discussion. There were 13 South Australians present, which was very impressive compared to some recent attendances at national conferences.

The conference was well put together with a great range of presentations by people working and researching in the field of Outdoor Education. The keynote presentations stirred much discussion and thought, as did breaks where thought-provoking chats were a plenty. No-one talked much about the Fremantle Dockers I noticed! Food, catering and social events were great. Who could forget the Swan River cruise and trying to get into the 'Little Creatures Micro Brewery' for a feed on Sunday! Thanks to Ralf Gurr and his team from Outdoors WA on a job well done.

During the conference, much discussion was held regarding the new national curriculum and Outdoor Education's place in it (or lack of). Some outcomes of these discussions were for a committee to be formed with educators from each state to discuss and plan future strategies for posturing Outdoor Education to be placed as a subject in its own right on the national curriculum. This has progressed and Scott Polley and Mike Meredith are the two SA reps to this group. There were also discussions regarding developing suitable letters to be sent to politicians and key educators in each state to raise awareness. This is still being considered but there was some concern it may harm the work already done by Tony Hewison and Peter Martin in lobbying ACARA the educational expert group putting suggestions forward to MCEECDYA the political group.

Of interest from these discussions was the continued need for a stronger national organisation representing Outdoor Education and ways to develop this group. The OEA exists as an unincorporated network at present and whilst there is keen interest from state associations to develop and foster this network, without good funding and national unity its effectiveness, as a national voice is limited at present. In response to this there has been agreement to look at options for raising funds through state associations, to be used at a

national level as well as ongoing suggestions to formally incorporate the OEA. This is a work in progress. OEASA is keen to continue effective dialogue toward a strong incorporated National body that is adequately funded to represent Outdoor Education on the national level.

The discussions on OEA and the National Curriculum resulted in the Fremantle declaration that was agreed to, in principle, by all delegates at the conference and reads:

"We, the delegates of the 16th Australian National Outdoor Education Conference affirm that, through interaction with the natural world, Outdoor Education provides unique opportunities to develop positive relationships with the environment, others and ourselves. These relationships are essential for the well-being and future of individuals, society and our environment.

"We believe that a national approach to advocacy, representation and support for Outdoor Education would best meet an emerging range of challenges and opportunities. We therefore commit our support to the further development of Outdoor Education Australia as the organisation most suited to represent and drive the initiatives required.

"In order to strengthen our communities' chance to meet and grow through the challenges facing a sustainable future, we support the immediate commitment of Outdoor Education Australia to advocate for the inclusion of Outdoor Education in the Australian National Curriculum as a subject in its own right."



Back row, L–R: Andrew Quinn, Bethany Walker, Bianca Barbon, Stephanie Martin, Belinda Biesegel, Tabitha Noble, Phil Noble, Brad Newton, Ian Langush
Penny..., Rob McLean, Mike Meredith, Scott Polley, Clay Hunter

Another outcome of the conference and the desire to raise the profile of OED particularly with regard the efforts to get OED in the national curriculum was the concept of a 'National Outdoor Education Week'. It was originally planned to get this under way before the next ACARA/MCEECDYA meeting in April but as mentioned, advice was that this may not be beneficial at this stage. The concept however has great merit and the following proposal has been put forward by Mark Munnings from the Maroon Outdoor Education Centre.

Outdoor Education Week Proposal

August 30–October 3, 2010

Mark Munnings

Following on from conversations held during the course of the National Conference held in Fremantle 2010, I have prepared a proposal about Outdoor Education Week. I would like to thank Maroon Outdoor Education Centre for giving me the time to prepare this proposal document and also making a commitment to help drive the Outdoor Education Week concept in 2010.

Background

The concept was floated during an Outdoor Education Australia meeting during the conference as a means of raising awareness of and appreciation for Outdoor Education in an attempt to bolster the bid by Outdoor Education to be included in the National Curriculum. Subsequent meetings around the national curriculum push have resolved that this strategy should not be pursued in the short term.

I propose to the OEA committee that we hold an inaugural Outdoor Education Week in the week of August 30, 2010.

The reasons for this date included:

- It gives us some time to prepare the ground for a well-promoted and resourced week.
- It is the week before Tasmania's Term 3 holidays, meaning most schools will be in session.
- It is the transition from winter to spring, a nice time in many parts of the country to be getting outdoors.
- There are no other major Education Weeks planned for this date (to my knowledge). Children's Book Week, Hearing Awareness Week, happen the week before and History Week, National Child Protection Week and Landcare Week all happen the week after.
- There will be another event somewhere, some time, that will make this date less attractive. It looks the best from my perspective at this point in time.

The Goals for Outdoor Education Week include:

- The promotion of Outdoor Education in the education and wider community.
- To increase public awareness of the need for young people to be learning outside the classroom.

Outdoor Education Week 2010

There will be a dedicated Web page set up within the Maroon OEC Web site linked via the OEA Web site that will form a centrepiece for the Outdoor Education Week campaign.

Models for the Web page that I have looked at include the following links:

Seaweek—Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA)

Outdoor Activity Week—Institute of Outdoor Learning UK

Features that would appear on our webpage include:

- Outdoor Education week logo and 'catch phrase/theme'
- A list of 10 ideas to help schools/organisations and individuals plan, promote and develop their own events and share these with others
- A single action campaign such as the 'postcard campaign' where you can register via the Web site or email, supported by a major naming sponsor
- The 'postcard campaign' will need the financial support of a major sponsor. Schools, centres, organisations that register would receive a package of pre-paid postcards from Outdoor Education Week. On the back of the postcard they would record their thoughts on learning outside for the week and send it to someone they want to share their Outdoor education experience with
- We would provide a list of 10 contact people in each state to send these cards to, including relevant politicians, heads of government departments, local radio/TV presenters, school principals, P&C committees
- These postcards could be sent in the two weeks preceding Outdoor Education Week, so that they would arrive in letter boxes during Outdoor Education Week.

We could come up with the finest definition of Outdoor Education of all time and it will not have the same impact as a short, meaningful story told by students.

I believe that I could achieve all of the above in the time put aside by MOEC for me.

Future Possibilities

Great Aussie Campout

Environmental Education Week—National Environmental Education Foundation

In subsequent years if more funding and time were made available a range of other possibilities could open up. These include:

- Some classroom teacher resources for P-12 teachers that will give teachers simple resources to help provide an outdoor education experience for their students
- Promotional video/audio footage to help with promoting the week
- Competitions and possible world record attempts
- Facebook, Google and Twitter pages for more interactive online experiences
- Make contact with other like-minded organisations and Associations to assist in wider promotion of the event; i.e. Environment educators, Geography teachers, H&PE teachers, Heart Foundation, etc.

Conference keynote summaries

Mike Meredith and Scott Polley

Tony Carden

Tony asked a key question: **Who are we?** This question is not uncommon, with the recent International Adventure Therapy in 2009 asking the same question, as they grapple with who should be admitted to the 'club' of Adventure Therapists, as well as members of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychologists. The focus of his presentation was engagement with the aspirational focus for Outdoor Educators and in particular Outdoor Education Australia. He asked key questions and highlighted a number of areas of development in recent years. His presentation was well packaged and provided a solid foundation for further discussion over the next three days at a National level.

Dr Ian Boyle

Recent Research into Neuroplasticity has opened a whole new field of brain health and how Outdoor Education is positioned to capitalise on this new research. Discussed the make up and functioning of the brain and how this can be used in OED programs to facilitate learning. Exercise and movement enhance brain function and improves brain readiness for learning. The brain circuitry can be remoulded to develop good habits, etc. Need for development of three Rs: Reflection, Relationships and Resilience. Value of meditation in training the brain (attention restoration theory). Some useful resources include:

Dr John Medina's book, *Brain Rules*, <brainrules.net>
Daniel Siegel's book, *Mindsight: The new science of personal transformation*, <drdansiegel.com>
Daniel Coyle's book, *The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't born it's grown*, <thetalentcode.com>
Ian Boyle, <www.maximumpotential.biz>

What was particularly distinctive about this presentation was the dispelling of the myth that Outdoor Education cannot make a contribution to the academic development of students. Ian has provided much more concrete evidence through the authors cited that an Outdoor Education program can significantly impact on student achievement that should prove useful ammunition for teachers in those schools that are trying to establish programs, but meet with resistance due to the perceived impact on the academic program.

Dr Mike Brown

Beyond Risk: Challenging the focus on what makes outdoor and adventure education distinctive

Discussed the changing nature of acceptable risk and notion of risk management as a mitigation. Need to address why we take risks and that they have chance of gain or loss. Need to process activities that are educationally defensible. Risk is a very personal thing and is integral to one's self concept and growth. Educators' role should to assist students to manage risks associated with learning. opportunities to develop ownership and re-

sponsibility (resilience). Students need to make decisions with natural consequences. Risky activities vs. taking responsible risks (decision-making).

The key impact of this presentation was to challenge the notion that pushing people out of their comfort zones would deliver personal learning outcomes. Brown could find no literature to support this view. Although he did not deny the potential for the use of challenge and risk as an educational tool, he argued that unless students were allowed to determine the nature and type of risk, and develop strategies to manage this risk, it could not be defended.

Other Presentations

Former Adelaide Teacher from St Peters College, **Bo Power**, now working in Perth, presented with Nathan Jessup 'Ethical dimensions in Outdoor Education: A case example'. It was a really interesting program where Year 9s were engaged in developing ethical processes through the provision of theoretical foundations of ethics, urban adventures and working with the community.

Peter Martin presented on defining the difference between a rockclimbing instructor, guide, coach and teacher. He spoke about the purpose of the experience defining the differences, and compared the role of a guide that was there to provide an experience, to an instructor that was there to teach for independent practice. He reflected on programs that might achieve different goals and the ways in which he had approached tertiary teaching to reflect these different possible outcomes.

James Neill spoke about the relationship between technology and Outdoor Education, and posed the hypothesis that OE could include the use of technology such as phones, laptops and other equipment in the field successfully. He suggested that we may not have a choice, using the quote 'If we fight technology we will lose'. He argued that to do this may well make OE more relevant to their world that is now so linked to technology, and gave examples such as Web sites and blogs devoted to reporting on expeditions. He described some of the communication tools that are now available, and gave examples of where they might enhance learning: both in the outdoors but also during the preparation and reflection phase. He also gave examples where technology may even enhance direct experiences in nature, and gave the latest round of footwear that has no sole midsole, and is shaped to fit around toes.

Conference presentations will be available on the OEA Web site as they become available: <www.outdooreducationaustralia.org.au>.

Keep an eye on this site for more details on the many exciting sessions presented.



Water for the future

David Doherty, Curriculum Coordinator; Arbury Park Outdoor School

Arbury Park Outdoor School near Bridgewater in the Adelaide Hills, lies in one of the highest rainfall regions in South Australia. This high rainfall supports a rich diversity of plants and animals in the school's stringybark forest 'classroom' which in turn provides a rich learning environment for students from around the state. For many years, water and rainfall have been a central part of learning in the outdoors: investigating freshwater creatures, learning about catchments, experiencing the sensory pleasures of a misty wet eucalypt forest. Now this learning can take an extra perspective with the commissioning of an exciting new rainwater harvesting project that sees Arbury Park continue towards reducing its ecological footprint.

On 23 October, at the end of National Water Week, Education Department Chief Executive Chris Robinson, officially 'unveiled' the project in front of resident students and staff from Aldinga Beach R-7 school. The celebration marked the end of a lengthy design and construction phase that has resulted in the installation of three large concrete tanks, bringing the total rainwater storage capacity of the site to 450 kilolitres. Water is harvested from the roof of the school gymnasium and pumped to storage tanks on a hillside above the main school buildings from where it is gravity fed to the entire school. In an average year, the total volume of water that can be harvested is calculated to be 500 kilolitres or approximately one third of the school's annual water consumption. Plans are underway to increase the amount



Education Department Chief Executive Chris Robinson officially unveils the rainwater harvesting project, watched by Year 4/5 students and staff from Aldinga Beach R-7 School

of rainwater harvested by linking in additional roof areas. Potentially the volume of water collected will increase to 710 kilolitres in an average rainfall year.

Harvesting water is only part of any sustainable water strategy. At Arbury Park, students are encouraged to minimise their water use by taking daily water meter readings at the shower block, a major consumer of water during their camp. The water meters provide great opportunities for working mathematically to investigate average water use per person, average water used per shower, average time spent per shower. What is a reasonable amount of water to use in your shower? Is there any truth to the myth that one gender spends more time in the shower than others?

Early data collection has revealed some interesting and encouraging water use patterns. During Term 4 this year students at Arbury Park have used less than 20L per person per day in the showers. Pleasingly, that translates to an average shower length of three minutes or less, the internal 'policy' of the site. As for myth busting, it appears that there is no consistent pattern regarding water use by boys and girls. In one camp program, boys used twice as much water as girls, in another girls used 50% more than boys, in others water use is almost identical.

A powerful aspect of learning in a residential setting such as a school camp is exploring behaviours that normally happen outside of school; water use, diet, communal dining, sleeping habits. Ultimately, however, each of us, regardless of gender or age has a responsibility to live lightly on the Earth. We all need to conserve the water available to us, a precious resource for life.



The two tanks



On risk

Tony Carden

The story of Victorian Government Minister Tim Holding becoming lost and then found on a bushwalk on Mount Feathertop, attracted enormous media attention and public interest. It also elicited a range of public commentary and opinion that should be of great interest to our profession. Much of the discussion centred on risk, with some commentators berating Minister Tim for taking risks and others applauding him. I was indeed pleased to be able to throw my two cents worth into the talkback chatter on the topic with both John Faine and Richard Stubbs on 774 ABC Melbourne, along the lines that Minister Tim seeks and attains positive personal development through his pursuit of adventure and challenge and then deploys the attributes thus gained, in the service of the public: my suggestion being, that surely this is a good thing, both for him personally and for us as a community.

The weighing of these sorts of benefits against the possible negative outcomes, and the deploying of strategies to tip the scales of probability in favour of the good stuff and against the bad stuff, constitutes what we tend to refer to as Risk Management. As in the public discussion around Minister Tim (or Captain Feathertop, as one wry observer has dubbed him), it's quite easy for us in developing outdoor learning activities, to lose focus on the benefits part of the equation and the proactive strategies that can be deployed to maximise them. It's also similarly easy to lose sight of the fact that reducing the likelihood of the bad stuff is always a relative game: suggestions or attempts to completely eliminate the possibility of bad stuff occurring are misplaced. Such attempts are misplaced for two key reasons. The first is that, short of not undertaking the activity, it's simply not possible to foresee or completely remove all risks. The second reason is that the existence of some level of risk is usually an inherent pre-requisite for the achievement of many learning aims, particularly those related to personal development. To take the Tim Holding example, would Minister Tim achieve the same level of personal growth/satisfaction/achievement if he had taken fewer risks or taken more steps to mitigate the risks? If the spectrum of risk runs from, at the one end, don't go, thereby eliminating all risk, to the other end of don't prepare, don't plan, don't

train, just go and take your chances, there will be a point on that spectrum for each person or group where the balance of risk and benefit is appropriate.

(Theoretical aside: This discussion is of course quite reminiscent of the oft-mentioned model proposed by Colin Mortlock, which suggests a relationship between 'real risk', 'perceived risk' and learning outcomes. Just as Mike Brown has pointed out some of the limitations in the familiar 'comfort zone' notion as a theoretical base for the practice of experiential teaching, so too has there been some questioning of the theoretical strength of the ways in which the Mortlock model is sometimes understood or used. This critique can be summarised in the observation that, at least in theory, the 'real risk' component of Mortlock's model is not psychologically necessary to achieve the desired 'adventure' or 'frontier adventure' states. The real risk is only necessary inasmuch as it creates a perception of risk.)

Meanwhile, back in the real world, those voices calling for the mandatory carrying of positioning beacons and/or the banning of solo bushwalking were happily balanced by those such as Victorian Liberal MP Kim Wells, who said, "No matter how much gear you have, no matter [how] prepared you are, accidents can happen. And I mean there's a real spirit of adventure, and we have to encourage that. We don't want people stuck behind televisions, we want them out."

I don't by any means intend to suggest here that the development of the various systems and frameworks for managing risk in the outdoors are intrinsically bad or that they stifle learning. In fact, I hope the opposite is true: that by having better, more appropriate mechanisms for assessing and managing risk consciously, we arrive at a more accurate understanding of risk and are thereby more free to confidently deploy our tools of trade—including risk itself—as teaching tools. The VOEA is working on organising a series of workshops in late March and early April that will explore these issues in detail and will include some critical incident scenario training. Stay tuned for updates in the coming months.

Tony Carden is Executive Officer, VOEA 

Managing the Risks associated with Severe Weather for dependent groups in the Outdoors

Following an extensive process of consultation, the VOICE (Victorian Outdoor Industry Council of Executives, formerly known as the Outdoor Industry Bushfires Taskforce) is pleased to announce the release of the *Guidance Note: Management of Outdoor Activities for*

Severe Weather Conditions. This document provides advice on managing risks associated with several types of severe weather and their effects, including bushfire. PDF and html versions are available at www.orc.org.au/activity_standards_resources.php. 

October 2009

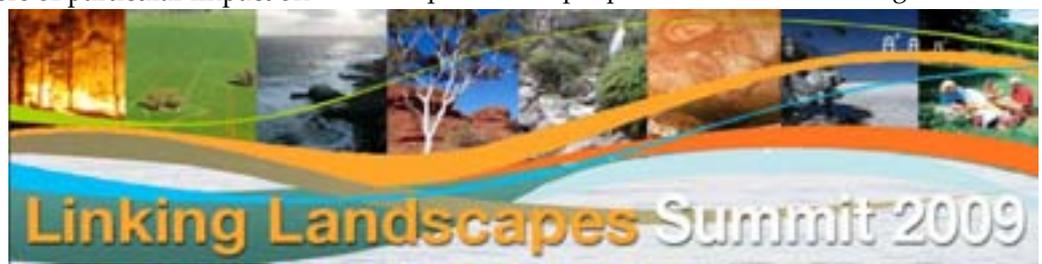
Tony Garden

The project to advocate the inclusion of Outdoor Education in the National Curriculum is stimulating some valuable and timely discussion across the Australian Outdoor Ed community. The shape and content of the National Curriculum is being developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). The effort to convince ACARA to include Outdoor Education in the National Curriculum is being lead on behalf of the Australian Outdoor Ed community by the former and founding Headmaster of St Michaels Grammar School in Melbourne, Mr Tony Hewison. Due in no small part to Mr Hewison's passion for Outdoor Ed and his effectiveness in articulating its benefits to ACARA board members and administrators, the proposal has been quite positively received. However, this positive interest has highlighted some of the conceptual challenges that have circulated among the Outdoor Ed community for a long time. Central among these is the question of what unique contribution does or can Outdoor Ed make to school education. One attractive and popular answer relates to the capacity of Outdoor Ed to, by virtue of its experiential nature, offer a deeper, more holistic education about the natural environment than other kinds of environmental education. This line of thinking has been a driving influence in the shape of the Senior Secondary O&ES courses in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The other main claimed benefits of Outdoor Ed—personal and interpersonal development—face some strong competing claims from other areas of teaching and learning that tend to be cheaper and simpler to deliver, such as a number of the arts, sport and PE, and a range of cross-curricular strategies in many other subject areas.

Whilst I would suggest that there is great scope for us to strengthen our claims about the effectiveness of Outdoor Ed as a means of teaching about self and others, the reasons for wanting to improve public understanding of nature seem to become more urgent by the day. I recently attended the Linking Landscapes Summit at Kingscliff in NSW. The summit brought together people from a range of sectors that have an intimate interest in land use, in order to develop a coordinated response to the conservation of Australia's ecosystems in the face of climate change. I found the summit very informative and it highlighted for me the important role that education must play if we are to meet a set of challenges that the word 'daunting' seems somehow inadequate to describe. Two presentations at the summit were of particular impact on me. The first was delivered by Dr John Woinarski, Principal Scientist in Kakadu for the NT Government. John presented the results of his Kakadu monitoring program where he and his team monitored 25 small mammal species

at more than 150 monitoring stations across Kakadu over 13 years. During that period, species richness (the measure of biodiversity) declined by 54% and species abundance (the actual number of critters) declined by 71%. You might want to read that again...and consider what that rate of decline in one of Australia's six 'mega-diverse' zones means. The second disturbing presentation was delivered by Dr Angus Hopkins from the Federal Government's Department of Climate Change. Angus presented some features from the Government's report on *Australia's Biodiversity and Climate Change*. Among the cheery bits of news in that report is a set of strategies for biodiversity conservation under three different climate change scenarios, drawn from the IPCC's 2007 report: 'recovery', 'stabilisation' and 'runaway'. For a 'recovery' scenario, the advice is to "nurse vulnerable ecosystems through a period of increasing climate change, anticipating the prospect of better conditions at some future date, albeit centuries away." For 'stabilisation', the advice is to "assist natural ecosystems to adapt to some altered future climate." For 'runaway', the advice is that "there are no promising and cost-effective approaches for conserving our vulnerable natural ecosystems. If such a scenario were to play out, it is likely that many extinctions and massive ecosystem change will result." Toward the bottom of the same page in the report, the authors note that "we are currently tracking on the runaway scenario."

In hearing and chatting about these issues with a range of bureaucrats and scientists at the summit, it became evident to me that there remains quite a gulf between the understanding of the people studying this stuff and proposing management strategies and policies, and the understanding of the general public. The problem with this is that the policy changes required to shift us off the 'runaway' path and onto a more hopeful one, require a level of political will and commitment that is only ever summoned on the back of sufficient public support. I'd suggest that the possibility of effective action on climate change really only manifested in the wake of the *Stern Review* and the release of *An Inconvenient Truth*. The former put a dollar cost on climate change and the latter, a human face. Al Gore's film is of particular relevance to us as educators. It's multi-layered (from simplified to complex) and multi-mode (caters to a number of learning styles by using animations, film, data, rational and emotional angles) approach seem to have been significant factors in its success as an educative tool. So, whilst climate change poses a significant threat to biodiversity, it is by no means the only one. On its own, regardless of climate change, biodiversity loss has the same range of consequences for people as does climate change: at the



one end, disruption to lifestyles and economic activity, and at the other, oblivion. For Australia, the shifts in thinking and behaviour necessary to satisfactorily conserve biodiversity are no less significant than those required to avoid catastrophic climate change: and indeed, are far more within our capacity as a nation to effect. Such shifts, if they are to occur, will rely on improved public understanding. As providers of Outdoor Education, we can play an important part by teaching our students about interconnectedness, about the crucial importance for humans of biological diversity, about the nature of nature and that we are in no way separate from it. I'll conclude the sermon by sharing with you an observation I made at the summit which was a cause for optimism and inspiration. In an informal chat with a handful of leading scientists, bureaucrats and a politician, I asked how many of them had been 'outdoor educated' at school. About half of them had. The other half had spent significant time and/or had had significant experiences in nature as children. All of them said that those experiences had driven them into their current occupations. Never underestimate the potential of the work you do.

Relevant Web resources

Linking Landscapes Summit: <www.linkinglandscapes.net.au>

Dr John Woinarski, Principal Scientist in Kakadu: <www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/programs/staff/north/woinarski.html>

Australia's Biodiversity and Climate Change: <www.climatechange.gov.au/en/publications/biodiversity/biodiversity-climatechange.aspx>

Biodiversity conservation strategies: <www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.htm#1>

Stern Review: <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stern_Review> 



It's the SACE Kayaking season. When someone falls in, the nearest student gets to do the rescue. (Boats are Platypus 5)

Risk management in the outdoors: a workshop for outdoor leaders and administrators

Workshop outline

Date: 10 April 2010

Venue: Magill Campus, University of South Australia

Cost: \$225.00 per person

OEASA will provide a subsidy of \$75 each for up to 10 members who are not being financially supported by their employers

Bookings: There are only 30 places! To book, send your contact details to peter.kellett@unisa.edu.au. You will be invoiced for the workshop fee.

Morning session, commencing at 10 am:

This interactive session will explore the following topics:

- What is risk?
- Risk consciousness
- Communicating risk
- Compliance with regulatory requirements.

Afternoon session, concluding by 4.30 pm

The afternoon session will consist of a facilitated critical incident scenario.

The Presenters: Deb Ajango and Tony Carden

One of the most powerful ways of training leaders to respond to critical incidents is via scenarios. Deb Ajango and Tony Carden are both experts in Risk Management in the outdoors and are presenting a series of one-day workshops around Australia during April 2010.

Tony Carden has spent 15 years working in field and management roles at the Outdoor Education Group (OEG) in Victoria where he was closely involved in the development of Risk Management practice and policy. Tony is currently the Executive Officer at the Victorian Outdoor Education Association (VOEA) where he provides ongoing advice to the Victorian Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and a number of independent schools on Risk Management in the Outdoors.

Deb Ajango is the American author of the excellent *Lessons Learned* books, which provide in-depth analysis of critical incident cases, and is the proprietor of SafetyEd, an organisation that provides outdoor Risk Management training and resources in the US. 

BLSA News

Currently Gordon Begg is OS, and Andrew Govan is acting chair and assessment coordinator. Questions about assessments can be directed to Andrew on 0412 719 716 or andrewg@venture.net.au This will be until March or April, and then will revert back to the contact details for Gordon.

Dave Rawson is working on a limited basis as the secretary for BLSA. He can be contact on blsa@bushwalking-leadership.org.au or 0412 158 302.

Congratulations to Mark Roberts for successfully completing his BLC

BLSA certificate assessment

The bushwalking season is coming up fast and it is time to plan how you are going to complete your walk certificates levels. Call your advisor to ensure your log book is up to date and assist in planning out the steps to complete your log.

The log book outlines all the areas you need to complete before you can arrange a group assessment. The area in which most trainees get stuck is with completing the BLC certificate:

- not completing the walk planning project and submitting this to BLSA for assessment
- not getting on to the Seminar Day, or completing the course work book
- not planning a head and getting on the Technical skills assessment early in the year.
- and finally, not completing the written assessment.

All of the above must be completed before submitting your application for assessment. With your application for assessment you must submit the completed form,

payment and a **completed log book** signed off by your advisor. Remember, they must be satisfied that you have completed all aspects prior to any group assessment being organised.



Get in early so that a group assessment can be planned and actually occur in a the walking season. If you have any questions you can contact Andrew Govan on 0412 719 716 or andrewg@venture.net.au

Calendar of courses

For all bookings people can contact Dave Rawson

Wirrabara: 5–11 July

Seminar Day: 2 May is a proposed date. (Depending on numbers a second one will be conducted in August/September). If you can't make the date then contact your advisor to organise completing the work book. This part of your training is required before your BLC group assessment.

Technical skills will be occurring in April and August/September again. This must be completed prior to your group assessment also.

Finally, **the written exam** also needs to be completed before group assessment. Contact your advisor or Andrew Govan.

For those in the Advanced scheme a General Mountain training is planned for October this year and the dates will be confirmed by March.

The steep terrain dates will also be confirmed shortly.

In March the updated calendar will be uploaded to the Web site.



World Challenge Adventure

Dan Smith

Blackwood High School's inaugural World Challenge embarked on 15 November for a 28 day expedition to Vietnam. The group consisted of eight girls and four boys. The team had spent over a year fundraising and preparing for their trip. On the first day of the trip came the first challenge when each member was put in charge of a different aspect of the trip such as safety, budgeting, or booking transport and accommodation. For some this was the hardest part of the journey.

The team spent the first week and a half acclimatising to the new experiences and cultures of Vietnam, including visiting the Mekong Delta's floating markets, the Cu Chi tunnels, exploring Ho Chi Minh City and preparing for our trek in one of the South Vietnamese National Parks.

We travelled overnight by train to Danang, where we took part in a Community Project by working in a boys home, painting and purchasing items of use. After assessing what would be of best use to the home, the team set to work either preparing and painting, shopping for items or playing with the boys from the home.

With a committed and focussed effort the team left a wonderful legacy having purchased mattresses and pillows for each child, four bicycles, a refrigerator, kitchen utensils, and completed painting in four large areas. After a week of hard work, the team had an opportunity to spend a few days relaxing in the UNESCO listed town of Hoi An. Here we had an opportunity to get clothes tailored and experience the Cham culture of the area by visiting the ruins of My Son (during a storm at 5am).

Continued on page 15...

The paddling page

Peter Carter

Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2009

In September last year, and without much publicity, the Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2009 were introduced. The Regulations are available as a 31 MB PDF from www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/HARBORS%20AND%20NAVIGATION%20REGULATIONS%202009.aspx.

Before long I was receiving questions from interstate, and even from New Zealand, about what was going on, and I was hearing of disaffection from the kayak fishing community (who normally paddle sit-on-tops).

Two provisions in the rules were of concern. The first was on page 22:

“(1) A person must not, without the approval of the CEO, operate—

...

“(b) a canoe, kayak or other similar small human-powered vessel (other than a rowboat), in unprotected waters.”

In other words, we were not permitted to do what we had been doing for the past 30 or so years, a time which has seen five circumnavigations of Kangaroo Island, several crossings from Port Lincoln to Adelaide or the reverse, and visits to Neptune, Flinders, Pearson, St Francis and other islands. Backstairs Passage crossings are almost routine. Kayak operation in ‘unsheltered waters’ (i.e. beyond 2 nautical miles from shore) is therefore commonplace. Although there have been incidents, including illness and a broken boat, no lives have been lost, there have been no serious injuries, and in the majority of cases, expedition members have dealt with the problems unaided.

The second was on page 103:

“(h) in the case of a vessel being operated in unprotected waters— a PFD Type 1;”

A PFD Type 1 is designed to hold an unconscious person face up, head clear of the water, and facing downwind. Kayak paddlers are not unconscious, but require unhindered upper body movement for efficient paddling. Kayaking PFDs of Type 2 and 3 are designed to allow that movement through appropriate placement of the buoyancy material and generous openings for head and arm movement. Type 1 PFDs may be bearable when sitting on the deck of a power boat or yacht: they are totally unsuited to the activity of paddling.

Whatever the motivation for these provisions, they were made without consultation or understanding of the needs of kayak paddlers. Some have speculated that they were a reaction to the loss of two lives in Backstairs Passage in July 2005. Be that as it may, new rules are counterproductive. They would not enhance safety, but if anything, detract from safety by reducing paddling efficiency.

On 13 October I wrote to the responsible Minister, Hon Patrick Conlon. My letter was followed by one from Ian Dewey, Australian Canoeing’s National Coaching and Education Coordinator. My letter suggested a meeting with representatives of the Department for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy (DTEI), and Ian made a similar suggestion.

Through the good offices of David Mausolf, President of Adelaide Canoe Club, a meeting was held on 3 November with Jim Hallion, CEO of DTEI and a former ACC member, and other DTEI staff and a group of paddlers representing Aus Canoeing, Canoe SA, UniSA, Regency TAFE, and Adventure Kayaking. It was a productive meeting, with the DTEI representatives realising that more work needed to be done on the regulations, and leading the way to further communication between the two groups.

The meeting proposed that the 2 nautical mile limit be replaced with a 400 metre rule, beyond which kayaks, individually or collectively as part of a group, would need to carry the same safety equipment as other craft: flares, EPIRB, V-sheet, water, etc. (but not fire extinguisher and other items not relevant). This would mean that kayaks would be regulated the same way as other craft. The Type 1 PFD rule would go.

The latest information from DTEI is that the 400 metre rule would be too difficult to enforce, and therefore the 2nm distance would remain. There were still questions whether PLBs would meet the EPIRB requirement, and on the amount of water to be carried. The forthcoming election means that revised Regulations are unlikely to go before Cabinet before mid-year.

In the meantime, you do not need ‘the approval of the CEO’ to paddle in unprotected waters, but you should carry the safety equipment. (And yes, I went shopping to replace flares with expiry dates in the 1970s.)

To read the correspondence, with some commentary, see www.users.on.net/~pcarter/regulations2009.html.

Forthcoming courses

Basic Skills courses are held regularly, and the Annual Sea Weekend will be at Victor Harbor 6–8 March. A Flatwater Skills/Lifeguard course is being planned for the week of 13–17 April. Contact Canoe SA, 8240 3294, for details.

Team Paddle Challenge

The 2010 event will be held at Roonka 23–24 October: a two-day canoe and kayak orienteering event in the backwaters upsteam of Blanchetown, with school teams from all over. There will be training days before the event.

For more information, registration forms, etc. see www.sa.canoe.org.au/?Page=8305.



Scott Polley

With 2009 a good year, SAREA in 2010 is a vibrant organisation that has built on the foundations laid down all those years ago, and the hard work of many volunteers who were deeply committed to safe instructional practice.

A big thanks to the current SAREA board and assessment panel for their hard work in 2009 that made it a very successful year. Sixteen people undertook the SAREA top rope program with six gaining their qualifications so far. Most of the remainder are close to finalising their award. Board and AA panel meetings were well attended and lively, and the energy level of this group of volunteers remains high.

The current SAREA board are Rob Baker (chair), Nick Horsnell (treasurer), Jo Link (secretary), Dave Trehearne (membership secretary), Sally Michelmore, Bec Salvado, Scott Polley, Michael Caruana and Dan Barry. The Assessor and Advisory Panel consists of Rob Baker, Gordon Begg, Stephen Carter, Martin Donnelly, Michael Caruana, Ross Powell, Jo Link, Ben Williamson, Bec Salvado, Duncan Henderson, Tyson Gilbert, Sally Michelmore, Greg Rolton, Neil Turner, Nic Van Buuren, Adam Saffin, Col Bolton, Ben Hawthorne, Dave Trehearne, Tim Gill, Duncan Chessell, Tim Catherwood, Peter Daish, Darren Williams, Rob Knott and Scott Polley.

A number of instructors who started their instructor program in 2009 were recently accredited, including Joss Rankin, Beau Gora, Todd Heinrich, Brenton Shoemaker and Brad Newton. A number of others are near completion, and it is hoped that most of the 16 that commenced their course last year will be completed soon.

2010 Events

Lead Climbing Instructor

SAREA has been unable to run its Lead Climbing Instructor program for a number of years, but following

World Challenge Adventure

...continued

Frenetic shopping gave way to jungle trekking as we headed to the Central Highland town of Dalat. Loaded with full packs, the team walked through rainforest, grassland, pine forest often up and down steep ascents and descents. An elephant ride was an added reward at the end of a long day's walk. The trek ended after sleeping under the stars next to a waterfall which, despite Mr Hudson's sickness, remained as a highlight for all of the team.

Following an eight hour bus trip and a visit to a deserted water park, the team finished the expedition in style, sharing mocktails at one of Ho Chi Minh City's most historic hotels.



workshops and re-writing of curriculum and assessments, will be available again in 2010. A number of SAREA assessors participated in a lead climbing workshop to 'test drive' new assessment tools. They were found wanting in places, but with modifications should be up and running for this year. Contact SAREA to register your interest.

Re-accreditation workshop

Plans are proceeding to put together a weekend workshop to re-accredit lapsed instructors who would like to renew their top rope instructor qualification, or obtain the less demanding top rope guide (restricted) level. Contact SAREA to register your interest.

SAREA 30 year re-union

The South Australian Rock-climbing Education Association celebrates its 30th year in 2010, and there are some plans to celebrate the event, including a re-union of some of the original folks who helped establish SAREA, and others who helped keep things ticking along. Contact SAREA to register your interest in this event.

Top Rope Instructor Course

This year's course is expected to run in the second half of the year, with a number of potential candidates waiting in the wings for details. If you would like to receive information, please contact SAREA.

See you on the crag.

South Australian Rockclimbing Education Association Inc
PO Box 601 North Adelaide, 5001.

www.climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au/sarea.html

sarea@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au



World Challenge offered the team the opportunity to experience another country and essentially control their own destiny. The growth and change that came with this responsibility has provided each team member with new skills which will help them in life and in further travel.

As a Year 9 or 10 student you have the opportunity to get on board a new trip beginning at the end of Term 1 2010.

It is your opportunity to expand your horizons and take charge of your own life.



Operation Flinders Foundation Seminar 2010

Date: Friday 19 March

Time: 9:00 am–3.30 pm

Venue: Room 11B Education Development Centre, Milner Street Hindmarsh

Parking: The Education Development Centre carpark is located on Orsmond Street, which runs adjacent to Milner Street and has parking for up to 180 vehicles. Alternatively, there is limited on street parking or a U Park next to the Entertainment Centre.

Public transport: Bus—catch Bus Number 151 from North Terrace which leaves the City every 15 mins, alight at stop 7
Train—catch the Grange or Outer Harbour train, alight at Bowden Station

Further information: Contact Kylie Pointon 8242 3255, kpointon@operationflinders.org

Proposed Program

8:30 am Doors open and registration begins

9:00 Welcome and introduction to new property — Yankaninna—John Shepherd (Executive Director)

9:30 Guest Speaker Doug Knuckey —Psychological Principles behind the program

How does Operation Flinders work? How do we know what works best? What is the idea behind the survival stand? How to choose young people for the program, who will get the most benefit.

10:30 Morning tea (provided)

11:00 Follow Up Program practical aspects and best practice—Kylie Pointon

What does research show adolescents need after Operation Flinders programs to maximise positive changes? What can the Operation Flinders New Directions program provide to support teachers with

follow up? What is the recommended best practice for follow up?

12:00 Activity—Master Chef Op Flinders Style

12:30 pm Lunch (provided)

1:00 Guest Speakers Professor Martin Westwell and Val Westwell—Utilising hand-held video cameras to capture participants' thoughts on final day.

Flinders University has generously donated eight hand-held video cameras to the Foundation to assist with gathering participants' thoughts on the final day (in addition to the paper feedback form). Professor Martin Westwell (Flinders University) and Val Westwell (Operation Flinders Counsellor) have been integrating technology into education in novel ways and will present some best practice on how to engage the young people and help with their reflection.

2:00 Afternoon tea (provided)

2:30 Panel Discussion: Counsellor vs Teacher—How to balance your two roles?

It is a difficult balancing act to merge your role as a teacher/ authority figure with that of a 24-hour counsellor/ confidant while on the Operation Flinders Program. How do you go back to the role of teacher again afterwards and still maintain same level of trust? Four of our experienced counsellors share their tips and answer questions about this delicate topic.

3:30 Thank you and close—Kylie Pointon

You are invited to join us at the Governor Hindmarsh Hotel on Port Road for further networking and discussion after the seminar.



OPERATION FLINDERS
A new direction for young people at risk

**2010 Operation Flinders
Professional Development Seminar**

Friday 19th March (week 8, term 1)
9.00am – 3.30pm (option for morning or afternoon attendance only)
Education Development Centre, Milner St, Hindmarsh
Free Lunch, Morning/Afternoon tea & refreshments provided
Contact Kylie Pointon – New Directions Manager for program or more information
p: 08 8242 3255 e: kpointon@operationflinders.org

Government of South Australia
Department of Education and
Children's Services



Bush Adventure Therapy is a diverse field of practice combining adventure and outdoor environments with the intention to achieve therapeutic outcomes for those involved.

The **Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy Inc.** is the peak body for practitioners who have a professional interest in supporting, developing and promoting the field of Bush Adventure Therapy.

Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy

Forum 2010

March 26th -29th - in Tasmania!



Building on the success of previous gatherings, this year **AABAT FORUM 2010** will be hosted by the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Association of Bush Adventure Therapy. Nestled between the rugged mountains of the South West National Park World Heritage Area and the beautiful D'Entrecateaux Channel, Far South Wilderness Camp will provide a stunning and relaxed environment in which to enjoy the kind of discussion, camaraderie, and professional development that has become characteristic of previous Forums.

Forum 2010 extends a particular welcome to persons new to the field; to prospective practitioners and program managers and all others unfamiliar but interested in the diversity, philosophy and practice of BAT in Australia.

For further information please contact:

Fiona Shone, SA Committee Representative
batnet.sa@xga.com.au

Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy Inc.
ABN: 47 085 106 509
Reg. Number: A0052444U

OEASA members

Name	Organisation	Membership type			
Matt Abbott School	Lameroo Regional Community School		Adrian Maywald	Naracoorte High School	Individual
Greg Allen	Thomas More College	School	Claire McCann	La Trobe University	Organisation
David Badenoch	Uni SA, Magill Campus	Individual	James McIntosh	OEAQ	Complimentary
Bianca Barbon		Individual	Michael Meredith		Life member
Dan Barry	TAFESA	Organisation	Kate Mitchell	Christchurch Grammar School	
Gordon Begg	Westminster School	School			Individual
Belinda Beisiegel		Individual	Neil Muggleton	Charles Campbell Sceondary School	
Rosalie Brink		Life member			Individual
Peter Carter	Canoe SA: Education	Complimentary	Mark Munnings	OEAQ Secretary	Complimentary
Margaret Clark		Individual	Brad Newton	PAC	Individual
Eve Craker		Student	Phil Noble	PAC Centre	Individual
Mick Dennis		Individual	John Pertl	Rostrevor College	School
Orio Denti	Renmark High School	Individual	David Petherick	Australian Camps Association	
Scott Downward	VOEA	Complimentary			Organisation
Tom Duigan 2009	OEG	Award Winner	Kylie Pointon	Operation Flinders Foundation	
David Edwards	Aberfoyle Park High School	School			Individual
Belinda Emanuele	Gleeson College	School	Tania Peake & Scott Polley		Life member
Trent English	Mount Barker High School	School	Anna Puckridge	Walford	School
Duncan Falconer	Scout Outdoor Centre	Corporate	David Quinby		Individual
Chris Fletcher	The Don college	Complimentary	David Rawson		Individual
Nerilee Flint		Individual	Stuart Rowland	Urrbrae Agricultural High	School
Anna Freedman School	St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls		David Russell	ACTOEA	Complimentary
Jeff Glass	Woodville HS	School	Rosemary Sage	Recreation SA	Organisation
Andrew Govan	Wilderness Escape Outdoor Adventures/ Venture	Corporate	Anthea & Lawrie Shem		Family
Tonia Gray	University of Wollongong	Complimentary	Heidi Smith	University of Tasmania	Complimentary
Ralph Gurr	Outdoors WA	Complimentary	Rod Staples	Tas AOEC Rep	Complimentary
Barry Hayden	DEH	Organisation	Frank Taylor	Para West Adult Campus	School
Duncan Henderson		Student	Peter Thornton	Mercedes College	School
Grant Henwood		Individual	Ryan Tripney	Norwood Morialta HS	School
Gayle Herman	Pembroke School	School	Neil Turner	Woodcroft College	School
David Higgins	Ocean View College	School	Robert West		Individual
Dale Hobbs	Wambana	School	Ben Williamson	Pembroke School	School
Chris Hodgson	King's Baptist Grammar School	School	Kim Wood	Wilderness School	School
Liz Liebing & Robert Hogan		Family: Life Members	Mark Woolfall	Adelaide High School	School
Libby Robertson & Wayne Hooper		Family: Life Members	Rick Woolford	Pultney Grammar	Individual
Natasha Howard	Seymour College	School	DFC—Families SA YARS		Organisation
Simon Young & Catherine Jenner		Family	VOEA		Complimentary
Peter Kellett		Life member	Paddy Pallin		Corporate
Mark Kelly	Scotch College	School	OE Coordinator	Golden Grove High School	School
Michael Kerin		Individual	OE Department	St Peters College	School
Wendy Kirk	Guides SA	Organisation	Port Augusta Aquatic Centre		School
Gerrard Kleinig	Kadina Memorial High School	School	Arbury Park Outdoor School		School
Doug Knuckey	Operation Flinders Foundation				
		Individual			
Tristan Kouwenhoven	Port Lincoln High School	School			
Munro Kym	World Challenge	Organisation			
Rebecca Lohmeyer		Individual			
Alex Longbottom		Individual			
Kathy Mann	ACTOEA	Complimentary			



Outdoor Educators Association of South Australia

Outdoor Education Award

For people who have demonstrated a high level of involvement and commitment to Outdoor Education.

Nominations to be received by 21 May. To be presented at the Certificate Presentation Dinner in June.

Candidate Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Category

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary Education Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | Secondary Education Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | TAFE Outdoor Recreation Award | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tertiary Outdoor Education Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certificate of Merit in Outdoor Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Service to Outdoor Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kris Mosher Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation SA Award | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Life Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

Statement Addressing Criteria

Nominee: _____ **Organisation/Institution:** _____

Address to

OEASA Secretary: Nick Glover, <nicks_mailbox@yahoo.com>, PO Box 411 Oaklands Park SA 5046

OEASA Committee _____

Recommendation: Accept/Not Accept

Comments

Outdoor Educators' Association Of South Australia

ABN 26 588 063 701

Membership form

Membership subscription for period 28 Feb 2010 to 28 Feb 2011

Type of Membership:

Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	New member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual \$60			<input type="checkbox"/>
Student \$45 (with AJOE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 (without AJOE)	<input type="checkbox"/>
School/Organisation/Corporate/Family \$70	<input type="checkbox"/>		

(Please tick appropriate boxes Note that we are not charging GST)

Members in the organisational category have been sent a Tax Invoice to use. If you are a new member in this category please return this form without payment and a Tax Invoice will be sent to you.

If you have this membership and would like an extra copy of a year's OEASA newsletters please add \$20. For two extra copies add \$40, etc.

Please make cheques and money orders payable to 'Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia'.

Members will receive:

- OEASA newsletters *Outdoor News* (four per year)
- AJOE (*Australian Journal of Outdoor Education*) (two per year)
- affiliation to other State Associations via the Outdoor Council of Australia and Outdoor Education Australia

Member details:

School/Organisation/Corporation (if applicable) _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Postal Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Individual/student/family members: what is the school or organisation you are connected with?

Forward to:

OEASA Treasurer
Phil Noble
PO Box 104
Morgan SA 5320